

REMARKS

In the office action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-30, 45 and 46 were pending in the application. Claims 8 and 17 have been amended and claims 1-7, 10-16, 45 and 46 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 47-50 have been added, thus claims 8, 9, 17-30 and 47-50 are pending and under consideration. No new matter is included in this amendment.

Drawings:

A replacement FIG. 2 has been provided as set forth above to improve the quality of an issued patent document. It is respectfully requested that the replacement FIG. 2 be entered in the application.

The Obviousness Type Double Patenting Rejection:

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-4 are provisionally rejected based on the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3 of co-pending application 09/694,787. Claims 1-4 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus this rejection is moot.

The 35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection:

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-7, 10-16 45 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,878,020 to Takahashi. Claims 1-7, 10-16, 45 and 46 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus this rejection is moot.

Allowable Subject Matter:

At page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 24-30 are allowed and that claims 8, 9, and 17-23 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 8 and 17 have been amended to independent form. Thus, claims 8, 9 and 17-23 are now deemed to be in allowable form.

New Claims:

New claims 47 and 49 depend from allowable claims 24 and 25, respectively and are deemed to be patentable at least for similar reasons as claims 24 and 25, respectively. New

claims 48 and 40 depend from claims 47 and 49, respectively and are deemed to be allowable for similar reasons set forth regarding claims 47 and 49, respectively.

Conclusion:

It is respectfully requested that this amendment be entered. All rejected claims have been cancelled without prejudiced or disclaimer and all "objected to" claims have been amended to independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. All of the new claims depend from allowable claims, so no new search or undue consideration should be required. It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 50-3333.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The drawings are amended as described below by presenting a replacement figure as attached hereto.

Please replace the sheet including FIG. 2 with the attached replacement sheet including FIG. 2. In the drawings, as downloaded from the Patent Application Retrieval System (PAIR), it appears that portions of the legends on FIG. 2 have been truncated. It is not clear whether this truncation occurred in the USPTO or whether the truncation was due to an error in duplicating the drawings as originally filed. The attached replacement figure is provided in order that a complete FIG. 2 will be included in any patent which issues from this application.